In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for dynamically determining a lock ~~form~~ in a
multiprocessor, comprising:
    (a)   maintaining first and second system-wide measures of read and write
              acquisitions; and
    (b)   determining a lock ~~form~~ based upon at least some of said measures, wherein said
              determination of said lock is independent of a lock lifetime.

2. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein said lock ~~form~~ is selected from the
group consisting of: a distributed reader-writer lock, a centralized reader-writer lock, and
an exclusive lock.

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein said exclusive lock ~~form~~ is
selected from the group consisting of: a test and set lock, a test and test and set lock, a
queued lock, a ticket lock, and a quad-aware lock.

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a distributed
reader-writer lock, and wherein said determining step is responsive to the system-wide
measure of write acquisitions and the system-wide measure of read acquisitions.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein said determining step is further responsive to a
quantity of units in the system.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 6, wherein said unit is selected from a group consisting of: a
CPU, a thread, a processor, a transaction, a co-routine, a thread in a multi-
threaded architecture, a NUMA module, and a task.

2

8. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a centralized lock, and wherein said determining step is responsive to the system-wide measure of write acquisitions and the system-wide measure of read acquisitions.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining a system-wide measure of read-hold duration.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of maintaining a system-wide measure of read-hold duration includes maintaining a measure of read-hold duration by a unit.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said unit is selected from a group consisting of: a CPU, a thread, a processor, a transaction, a co-routine, a thread in a multi-threaded architecture, a NUMA module, and a task.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a centralized lock, and wherein said determining step is responsive to the system-wide measures of read acquisitions and read-hold duration.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 9, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is an exclusive lock and wherein said determining step is responsive to the system-wide measure of read-hold duration.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said determining step is further responsive to the system-wide measure of read acquisitions.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising periodically updating at least some of said system-wide measures.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of said second system-wide measures are selected from a group consisting of: a digital filter, a weighted average, a

3

sliding window average, a finite impulse response, and a central data structure.

17. (Currently Amended)   A computer system comprising:

    multiple processors;

    first and second system-wide measures of read and write acquisitions of said processors; and

    a lock manager adapted to select a lock ~~form~~ responsive to at least some of said measures, wherein said lock selection is independent of a lock lifetime.

18. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein said lock ~~form~~ is selected from a group consisting of: a distributed reader-writer lock, a centralized reader-writer lock, and an exclusive lock.

19. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 18, wherein said exclusive lock ~~form~~ is selected from a group consisting of: a test and set lock, a test and test and set lock, a queued lock, a ticket lock, and a quad-aware lock.

20. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a distributed reader-writer lock, and wherein said lock manager is responsive to the system-wide measure of write acquisitions and the system wide measure of read acquisitions.

21. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a centralized lock, and wherein said lock manager is responsive to the system-wide measure of write acquisitions and the system-wide measure of read acquisitions.

22. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a centralized lock, and wherein said lock manager is responsive to the system-wide measure of read acquisitions and a system-wide measure of read-hold duration.

23. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 17, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is an

4

exclusive lock and wherein said lock manager is responsive to a system-wide measure of read-hold duration.

24. (Currently Amended)   In a multiprocessor system, an article comprising:
        a computer-readable signal bearing medium;
        means in the medium for maintaining first and second system-wide measures of read and write acquisitions; and
        means in the medium for selecting a lock ~~form~~ responsive to at least some of said measures, wherein said means for selecting said lock is independent of a lock lifetime.

25. (Original)   The article of claim 24, wherein the medium is selected from a group consisting of: a recordable data storage medium, and a modulated carrier signal.

26. (Currently Amended)   The article of claim 24, wherein said lock ~~form~~ is selected from a group consisting of: a distributed reader-writer lock, a centralized reader-writer lock, and an exclusive lock.

27. (Currently Amended)   The article of claim 24, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a distributed reader-writer lock, and wherein said means in the medium for selecting a lock ~~form~~ is responsive to the system-wide measure of writer acquisitions and the system wide measure of read-acquisitions.

28. (Currently Amended)   The article of claim 24, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a centralized lock, and wherein said means in the medium for selecting a lock is response to the system-wide measure of write acquisitions and the system-wide measure of read acquisitions.

29. (Currently Amended)   The article of claim 24, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is a centralized lock, and wherein said means in the medium for selecting a lock ~~form~~ is responsive to a system-wide measure of read acquisitions and a system-wide measure of read-hold duration.

5

30. (Currently Amended)   The article of claim 24, wherein the lock ~~form~~ is an exclusive lock and wherein said means in the medium for selecting a lock ~~form~~ is responsive to a system-wide measure of read-hold duration.

31. (Original) The article of claim 24, wherein at least some of said second system-wide measures are selected from a group consisting of: a digital filter, a weighted average, a sliding window average, a finite impulse response, and a central data structure.

6